

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer comprising:
  - 2 a chassis having a front panel, a first side panel, a second side panel, and a rear panel all
  - 3 mounted on a base and forming a rectangular enclosure;
  - 4 a system board attached to said chassis, said chassis having a receiving zone for a threaded
  - 5 fastener;
  - 6 at least one thumb screw assembly comprising a threaded screw with a groove and a
  - 7 gripping accessory with a grip for matingly engaging the screw in said groove;
  - 8 wherein said thumb screw assembly is received in said receiving zone.
- 1 2. The computer of claim 1 further including a spring engagingly surrounding said screw.
- 1 3. The computer of claim 1 wherein said thumb screw assembly is height-adjustable.
- 1 4. The computer of claim 1 wherein said thumb screw assembly can be engaged and  
2 disengaged without any tools.
- 1 5. A thumb screw assembly capable of securing components to a chassis comprising:
  - 2 a screw comprising:
    - 3 a threaded portion;
    - 4 a shank portion; and
    - 5 a head portion;

6           wherein a first groove extends along said shank portion and a second groove  
7           intersects the first groove under said head portion; and  
8           a gripping accessory comprising:  
9                 an outer gripping surface;  
10                a retaining socket; and  
11                a hub;  
12                wherein a grip is positioned inside said hub for matingly engaging the grooves of  
13                said screw.

1     6.       The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 further including a spring engagingly surrounding  
2       the shank portion of said screw.

1     7.       The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 wherein the height of said thumb screw assembly is  
2       adjustable.

1     8.       The thumb screw assembly of claim 5 wherein said thumb screw assembly can be engaged  
2       and disengaged without any tools.

1     9.       A fastener comprising:  
2               a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a retaining notch; and  
3               a gripping accessory which is disposed radially about said shank and can be moved  
4       longitudinally along at least a portion of said shank, said gripping accessory can be used to turn  
5       said shank by engaging said gripping accessory in said notch.

1      10.     The fastener of claim 9 further including a spring engagingly surrounding the shank.

1      11.     The fastener of claim 9 wherein said fastener can be engaged and disengaged without any  
2      tools.

1      12.     The fastener of claim 9 wherein the gripping accessory includes a grip, the grip engaging  
2      said notch.

1      13.     A method for securing a first component to a second component with a fastener having a  
2      gripping accessory and a shank, the method comprising:

- 3               (a) placing the first component adjacent to the second component;
- 4               (b) pulling the gripping accessory so that it extends to an extended position;
- 5               (c) rotating the gripping accessory until it engages the shank;
- 6               (d) turning the gripping accessory to secure the components; and
- 7               (e) releasing the gripping accessory so that it retracts from the extended position.

1      14.     A computer comprising:

- 2               a chassis having a front panel, a first side panel, a second side panel, and a rear panel all
- 3               mounted on a base and forming a rectangular enclosure;
- 4               a system board attached to said chassis;
- 5               a component; and
- 6               a means for engaging and disengaging said component to said chassis;

7       wherein said means comprises a shank having a groove formed longitudinal therein and a  
8       retaining notch and a gripping accessory which is disposed radially about said shank and can be  
9       moved longitudinally along at least a portion of said shank, said gripping accessory can be used to  
10      turn said shank by engaging said gripping accessory in said notch.

1       15.     The computer of claim 14 further including a spring engagingly surrounding the shank.

1       16.     The computer of claim 14 wherein said fastener can be engaged and disengaged without  
2       any tools.

1       17.     The computer of claim 14 wherein the gripping accessory includes a grip, the grip engaging  
2       said notch.